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## Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter therein as follows.

- 1) (Original) Substantially homogeneous type II-like collagen isolated from one or more species of jellyfish.
- 2) (Original) The type II-like collagen of claim 1, wherein said species is Stomolophus meleagris.
- 3) (Original) The type II-like collagen of claim 2, wherein said jellyfish comprise one or more elements selected from the group consisting of the umbrella, arms, and the whole organism.
- 4) (Original) The type II-like collagen of claim 1, wherein said collagen comprises at least 90 wt % of collagen-protein.
- 5) (Original) The type II-like collagen of claim 1, wherein said collagen comprises at least 95 wt % of collagen-protein.
- 6) (Original) The type II-like collagen of claim 1, wherein said collagen comprises at least 99 wt % of collagen-protein.
- 7) (Currently Amended) The type II-like collagen of claim 1, produced by the process comprising:
- a) extracting <u>acid insoluble</u> collagen from one or more jellyfish species to form a solubilized collagen solution;
- b) salt fractionating said collagen by precipitating a fraction of said collagen from said solubilized collagen solution at a pH between 7.0 and 8.0 by sequentially increasing the molarity of said salt to 1.8 M, 2.5 M, 3.0 M, 3.5 M, 4.0, and 4.5 M and removing said precipitated collagen fraction after each sequential increase; and

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- c) collecting the collagen fraction precipitated at in the range of 3.0-3.5 M salt.
- 8) (Currently Amended) The type II-like collagen of claim 7, wherein said salt solution comprises one or more alkali metal halides.
- 9) (Currently Amended) The type II-like collagen of claim 7, wherein said salt solution comprises NaCl.
- 10) (Original) The type II-like collagen of claim 7, wherein said salt fractionating is carried out at a pH of 7.5.
  - 11) (Currently Amended) Type II-like collagen, produced by the process comprising:
- a) extracting <u>acid insoluble</u> collagen from *Stomolophus meleagris* to form a solubilized collagen solution;
- b) salt fractionating said collagen by precipitating a fraction of said collagen from said solubilized collagen solution at pH between-7.5 by sequentially increasing the molarity of said salt to 1.8 M, 2.5 M, 3.0 M, 3.5 M, 4.0 M, and 4.5 M and removing said precipitated collagen fraction after each sequential increase; and
- c) collecting the collagen fraction precipitated at in the range of 3.0- 3.5 M salt.
- 12) (Currently Amended) A method of treating arthritis in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a jellyfish substantially homogeneous type II-like collagen from one or more species of jellyfish to said subject.
  - 13) (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.
- 14) (Currently Amended) A method for modulating an autoimmune response in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a jellyfish substantially homogeneous type II-like collagen from one or more species of jellyfish to said mammal.

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15) (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising <u>substantially</u> <u>homogeneous</u> type II-like collagen <u>from one or more species of jellyfish</u> and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16) (Currently Amended) A composition that comprises type II-like collagen <u>from</u> one or more species of jellyfish that is substantially free of natural contaminants.